

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of system management comprising:
  - 5 providing configuration information relative to components of said system being managed, wherein said components are multiple computers in a network environment, and wherein one of said components is a server computer;  
utilizing a common language to provide said configuration information;  
providing an interface enabling the inputting of said configuration  
10 information and enabling the managing of said configuration information; and  
validating said configuration information during the inputting thereof, so as to ensure said configuration information is compliant with a schema of said configuration information.
- 15 2. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said providing configuration information further comprises defining a task performed during said system management.
- 20 3. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said providing configuration information further comprises specifying a configuration for said task, said configuration comprising a parameter relative to said task.
- 25 4. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said providing configuration information further comprises declaring said schema for representation of said configuration.

5. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said common language is extensible markup language.

5 6. The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising generating an inputted configuration information notification to said components of said system when said inputted configuration information is relative thereto.

7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said interface is  
10 dependent upon said configuration information being inputted and upon an entity inputting said configuration information.

8. The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprises switching  
from a previously operational component which has become a non-operational  
15 component to an alternative operational component, said alternative operational component providing information analogous to said previously operational component, and wherein said switching is performed dynamically when said previously operational component becomes non-operational.

20 9. The method as recited in Claim 5 wherein derivatives of said extensible markup language can be used as said common language.

10. In a network environment, a method of server system information management comprising:

defining tasks performed by said server system of said network  
environment during system management;

specifying configurations for said tasks, said configurations comprising  
parameters relative to said tasks;

5 declaring schemas for representation of said configurations, wherein a  
common language is used for defining said tasks and specifying said  
configurations and declaring said schemas;

using an interface to enable the inputting and managing of said  
information in said server system; and

10 validating said information during the inputting thereof, so as to ensure  
that said information is compliant with said schema.

11. The network environment of Claim 10 wherein said common  
language is extensible markup language.

15 12. The network environment of Claim 10 wherein said method of  
server system information management further comprises generating an inputted  
information notification to components in said server system when said inputted  
information is relative to said components.

20 13. The network environment of Claim 10 wherein said interface is a  
graphical user interface that is dependent upon said information being inputted  
and upon an entity inputting said information.

14. The network environment of Claim 10 wherein said interface is a command line interface that is dependent upon said information being inputted and upon an entity inputting said information.

5 15. The network environment of Claim 10 wherein said method of server system information management further comprises switching from a previously operational component which has become a non-operational component to an alternative operational component, such that said alternative operational component provides information analogous to said previously  
10 operational component, and wherein said switching is performed dynamically when said previously operational component becomes non-operational.

16. The network environment of Claim 11 wherein derivatives of said extensible markup language can be used as said common language.

15 17. A computer system in a computer system network, said computer system comprising:

a bus;

a display device coupled to said bus;

20 a memory unit coupled to said bus; and

a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for performing a method of system management comprising:

providing configuration information relative to said computer system network;

utilizing a common language to provide said configuration  
information;

using an interface to enable the inputting of said configuration  
information and the managing of said configuration information, wherein said  
5 providing configuration information further comprises specifying a configuration  
for a task, said configuration comprising a parameter relative to said task; and  
validating said configuration information during the inputting  
thereof, so as to ensure said configuration information is compliant with a  
schema of said configuration information.

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18. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said providing  
configuration information further comprises defining said task performed by said  
computer system during said system management.

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19. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said providing  
configuration information further comprises declaring said schema for  
representation of said configuration.

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20. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said common language  
is extensible markup language.

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21. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said method further  
comprises generating an inputted configuration information notification to other  
computer systems in said computer system network when said inputted  
configuration information is relative thereto.

22. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said interface is dependent upon said configuration information being inputted and upon an entity inputting said configuration information.

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23. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said method further comprises switching from a previously operational computer system which has become a non-operational computer system to an alternative computer system within said computer system network, such that said alternative operational computer system provides information analogous to said previously operational computer system, and wherein said switching is performed dynamically when said previously operational computer system becomes non-operational.

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24. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein derivatives of said extensible markup language can be used as said common language.

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25. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system in a computer system network to perform a method of system management comprising:

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providing configuration information relative to said computer system network;

utilizing a common language to provide said configuration information;

using an interface to enable the inputting and managing of said configuration information; and

validating said configuration information during the inputting thereof, so as to ensure said configuration information is compliant with a schema of said configuration information.

5           26.    The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said providing configuration information further comprises defining a task performed by said computer system during said system management.

10           27.    The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said providing configuration information further comprises specifying a configuration for said task, said configuration comprising a parameter relative to said task.

15           28.    The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said providing configuration information further comprises declaring said schema for representing said configuration.

            29.    The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said common language is extensible markup language.

20           30.    The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said method further comprises generating an inputted configuration information notification to other computer systems in said computer system network when said inputted configuration information is relative thereto.

31. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said interface is dependent upon said configuration information being inputted and upon the entity inputting said configuration information.

5 32. The computer-usable medium of Claim 29 wherein derivatives of said extensible markup language can be used as said common language.

33. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25 wherein said method further comprises switching from a previously operational computer system which  
10 has become a non-operational computer system to an alternative computer system within said computer system network, such that said alternative operational computer system provides information analogous to said previously operational computer system, and wherein said switching is performed dynamically when said previously operational computer system becomes non-  
15 operational.